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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

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To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the military intelligence professionals at Camp Ritchie, commonly known as the “Ritchie Boys”, in recognition of their groundbreaking contributions to the field of human intelligence and their outstanding service during World War II.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. TRONE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the military intelligence professionals at Camp Ritchie, commonly known as the “Ritchie Boys”, in recognition of their groundbreaking contributions to the field of human intelligence and their outstanding service during World War II.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ritchie Boys Congres-  
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Ritchie Boys were a group of approxi-  
4 mately 15,200 servicemembers who trained in  
5 United States Army Intelligence methods at Camp  
6 Ritchie, Maryland, during World War II.

7 (2) Most of the men and women assigned to  
8 Camp Ritchie possessed critical language skills in  
9 German, Polish, Italian, French, and other lan-  
10 guages that became an asset to allied forces during  
11 the war.

12 (3) Approximately 14 percent of the Ritchie  
13 Boys were Jewish refugees from Germany and Aus-  
14 tria who had detailed knowledge of German cultural  
15 attitudes and communication.

16 (4) The Ritchie Boys were trained in methods  
17 of human intelligence, including groundbreaking  
18 techniques in interrogation, counterintelligence, and  
19 psychological warfare that leveraged cultural knowl-  
20 edge as a tool for building rapport with prisoners.

21 (5) Consequently, the Ritchie Boys were able to  
22 gather vital intelligence regarding the hierarchy,  
23 strategies, motivations, and attitudes of the German  
24 military.

25 (6) The Ritchie Boys who completed training at  
26 Camp Ritchie went on to serve in units on the front

1 lines in Europe, conducting human intelligence oper-  
2 ations and analyzing German military plans to pro-  
3 vide strategic intelligence to commanders in the  
4 field.

5 (7) The Ritchie Boys also conducted counter-  
6 intelligence operations aimed at demoralizing the  
7 enemy and convincing German soldiers to abandon  
8 their units.

9 (8) After the war, many of the Ritchie Boys  
10 helped shape American culture and society through  
11 their continued work in the intelligence community  
12 as well as governance, academia, and other fields.

13 (9) A United States Army report found that ap-  
14 proximately 60 percent of the actionable intelligence  
15 gathered in Europe during the war came from the  
16 Ritchie Boys.

17 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

18 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the  
19 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore  
20 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the  
21 award, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of ap-  
22 propriate design to the military intelligence professionals  
23 at Camp Ritchie, commonly known as the “Ritchie Boys”,  
24 in recognition of their groundbreaking contributions to the

1 field of human intelligence and their outstanding service  
2 during World War II.

3 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the  
4 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the  
5 Treasury shall strike the gold medal with suitable em-  
6 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
7 Secretary.

8 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the  
10 gold medal in honor of the military intelligence pro-  
11 fessionals, the “Ritchie Boys”, the gold medal shall  
12 be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it  
13 shall be available for display as appropriate and  
14 made available for research.

15 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
16 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should  
17 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)  
18 available for display elsewhere, particularly at other  
19 locations associated with the Ritchie Boys.

#### 20 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

21 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
22 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price  
23 sufficient to cover the costs of the bronze medals, includ-  
24 ing labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead  
25 expenses.

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2       The gold medal struck pursuant to this Act is a na-  
3 tional medal for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United  
4 States Code.

5 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
6 **SALE.**

7       (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is  
8 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
9 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-  
10 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under  
11 this Act.

12       (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the  
13 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section  
14 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
15 Enterprise Fund.